

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2830) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Coast Guard Authorization Act. This bill takes necessary steps to modernize our maritime fleet, enhance security at sea and at port, and reduce pollution. These measures are overdue, and I applaud Chairman OBERSTAR, THOMPSON, and CONYERS and their respective ranking members for bringing this bill forward today.

I am most proud, however, that this bill finally begins to address the ever-growing scourge of invasive species spreading throughout our coastal and inland waters. These foreign organisms are wreaking havoc on native ecosystems and local economies. The Great Lakes are already home to a whopping 185 invasive species. Zebra mussels have clogged water intakes at power plants and municipal water treatment facilities, adding about \$2 billion to the cost of producing electricity and clean drinking water, while also altering the ecosystem and reducing the number of prized fish species. The sea lamprey would have driven Great Lake trout species to extinction if the Federal Government did not spend \$15 million per year to combat them. And the lakes face a menacing new threat as Asian carp continue their march up the Illinois River.

The ballast water treatment requirements in this bill seek to remedy the lackadaisical attitude that led to the introduction of each of these species into American waters. Rather than continuing to say, "Come what may," this bill states that it is now national policy that the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species should be prohibited and establishes a goal of ensuring that by 2015 no ballast water discharged by ships in U.S. waters contains viable living organisms. Furthermore, the bill sets up ballast water treatment requirements for ships entering U.S. waters and methods for enforcement. With these protections in place, State and Federal Governments will have tools in hand to begin to reverse the tide of invasives and restore our own native ecosystems.

I have seen the waters of the Mississippi River in my own district be overrun by invasives such as the zebra mussel, which is why I have taken a keen interest in legislation to address the problem. I was proud to join with my colleague RAHM EMANUEL, who has been an outspoken proponent for action on this issue, in drafting amendments to H.R. 2380 to strengthen the bill's ballast water

treatment section. One of these amendments would have clarified that vessels that do not carry ballast water on board—No Ballast On Board, or NOBOB—are also subject to the treatment provisions. The other would have required that ships make their logs of ballast treatment activities available to the Secretary of Transportation each month. By adding this requirement, the public will be assured access to this information and will be able to track the actions of all ships entering our waters.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his support of these amendments and for including them in the manager's amendment approved today. These simple additions to the bill are important improvements that will strengthen our defenses against invasives and improve transparency and accountability. We greatly appreciate the chairman's willingness to make these changes and his great leadership when it comes to the health and safety of the Great Lakes.

On the heels of Earth Day, the time to pass the ballast water provisions in this bill could not be better. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, six decades ago, on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion declared the independence of the modern State of Israel—the resurrection of a nation that had been scattered and persecuted for nearly two millennia.

Ben Gurion's declaration was followed, 11 minutes later, by American recognition of the new state. Within hours, five Arab armies attacked the nascent country. These two elements—the deep friendship with the United States and conflict with its Arab neighbors—would remain dominant threads in the saga of Israel from 1948 to today.

In many respects, modern Israel has fulfilled the early Zionists' goal of creating a "normal" nation—one that would take its place alongside the world's other states. The country's booming high-tech economy, its modern infrastructure, its global leadership in science and medicine, its laid-back Mediterranean lifestyle and its vibrant democracy are testament to more than a century of effort by Israelis and the Jewish pioneers who preceded them. Two of its Arab neighbors, Egypt and Jordan, have had the courage to sign peace treaties with Israel.

Unfortunately, Israel's successes have been undermined by the continued hostility of many of its Arab neighbors and by the unjustified vilification of Israel at the United Nations and in much of the world's media. The singling out

of Israel for unjust condemnation has bolstered the hands of Israel's implacable foes and has been a tragic impediment to the realization of progress, prosperity and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

America has long enjoyed a unique bond with Israel—in fact Americans were leading advocates for the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty in the Holy Land as far back as the early 19th Century. American support was critical to Israel's survival in its early years and, following the 1967 Six-Day War, the two countries forged a strategic alliance that endures to this day.

Our bond with Israel is strong because it encompasses a number of dimensions: it is built on mutual security interests, shared values and a commitment to the rule of law. In its democracy and free press, Israel stands as a beacon to its neighbors, and its openness is all the more remarkable given the security threats that have shaped the country since its founding. As Americans, we should acknowledge these achievements and support Israel as it works toward a durable peace.

Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1948, there were many who predicted that the State of Israel would not even survive a month, much less 60 years. That it has—with its values and vision intact—is a miracle and one worth celebrating.

THANKING PATTY KORIN FOR HER
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 25, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in April 2008, I rise to thank Mrs. Patty Korin for 11 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Patty joined the Chief Administrative Officer, CAO, Financial Solutions Staff in the summer of 1997 as a senior accountant. Patty brought a wealth of accounting expertise relating to the creation of financial statements. Her attention to detail has been a significant contribution to the Accounting department. She has instructed CAO staff on proper accounting usage and written beneficial procedures to assist others. Her passionate customer service, organizational skills, resourcefulness and dedication to her work have benefited Member offices and staff over the past years.

In 1999, Patty received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her contribution to the first clean audit opinion for the U.S. House of Representatives.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Patty for her years of dedication and outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Patty many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.